

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An oligopeptide ~~protecting against~~ having dental caries protective properties comprising two arginine residues selected from the group consisting of pentapeptide, hexapeptide, heptapeptide, octapeptide, nonapeptide and decapeptide, wherein said oligopeptide comprises the sequence ProArgGlyArg.

2. (Currently amended) The oligopeptide of claim 1 ~~comprised by the~~ sequence GlyGlyHisProArgProProArgGlyArgProGlnGlyProProGlnGln which is SEQ ID No. 13.

3. (Currently amended) The oligopeptide of claim 2 ~~ArgGlyArgProGln~~ 1 which is SEQ ID No. 1.

4. (Currently amended) The oligopeptide of claim 2 1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 2 through 12:

~~ArgGlyArgProGln;~~

~~ArgGlyArgProGlnGly~~

~~ArgGlyArgProGlnGlyPro;~~

~~ArgGlyArgProGlnGlyProPro;~~

~~ArgGlyArgProGlnGlyProProGln;~~

~~ArgGlyArgProGlnGlyProProGlnGln;~~

~~GlyGlyHisProArgProArgProProArgGlyArg;~~

~~GlyHisProArgProProArgGlyArg;~~

~~HisProArgProProArgGlyArg;~~

~~ProArgProProArgGlyArg;~~

~~ArgProProArgGlyArg;~~

~~ProProArgGlyArg.~~

5. (Currently amended) A method of preventing dental caries comprising the oral administration of a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the oligopeptide of claim 1.

6. (Currently amended) A composition for preventing dental caries comprising a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the oligopeptide of claim 1 and a carrier therefor.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 6 wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing-gum, lozenge, chewable tablets.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) A method of preventing dental caries comprising the oral administration of a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the peptide of claim 2.

10. (Currently amended) A method of preventing dent caries comprising the oral administration of a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the peptide of claim 3.

11. (Currently amended) A method preventing caries comprising the oral administration of a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the peptide of claim 4.

12. (Currently amended) A composition for preventing dental caries comprising a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the oligopeptide of claim 2 and a carrier therefor.

13. (Currently amended) A composition for preventing dental caries comprising a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the oligopeptide of claim 3 and a carrier therefor.

14. (Currently amended) A composition for preventing dental caries comprising a dental caries prevention-effective amount of the oligopeptide of claim 4 and a carrier therefor.

15 - 17. (Cancelled).

18. (New) The composition of claim 7 in which the amount of the oligopeptide is 0.1 mg to 1 gram.

19 (New) The composition of claim 6 in which the amount of the oligopeptide is 0.1 mg to 1 gram.

20. (New) The oligopeptide of claim 1 comprising at least one ProGly sequence.

21. (New) A composition for preventing dental caries comprising 0.1 mg to 1 gram of an oligopeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 1-13 and a carrier therefor.

22. (New) A method of preventing dental caries comprising the oral administration of a composition of claim 21.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing gum, lozenge and chewable tablet.

24. (New) The composition of claim 21 wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing gum, lozenge and chewable tablet.